

# Washington State Judicial Branch 2015-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

## Decision Package

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**Agency** Law Library

**Decision Package Title** Step M Increase

**Budget Period** 2015-2017 Biennial Budget

**Budget Level** Maintenance Level

### Agency Recommendation Summary Text

Funding is requested to implement the additional step increase approved by the legislature. Because of the magnitude of the budget cuts sustained by the Supreme Court in recent years, there is no additional money for the increase to Step M.

### Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures	FY 2016	FY 2017	Total
001-1 General Fund State	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,000
Staffing	FY 2016	FY 2017	Total
FTEs (number of staff requested)	0	0	0

### Package Description

The Law Library seeks funding for those employees eligible for the additional step (step M) authorized by the legislature. The parameters established by the legislature will be used as the criteria to determine which Law Library staff are eligible for the additional increment.

Since 2009, the Law Library has sustained a 36% reduction to its operating budget. In order to achieve those reductions the Law Library made significant reductions to programs and operating expenditures. Without additional funding as requested, it will not be possible to provide the increase for eligible employees.

## **Narrative Justification and Impact Statement**

**This package contributes to the Judicial Branch Principle Policy Objectives as identified below.**

### **Fair and Effective Administration of Justice in All Civil and Criminal**

**Cases.** *Washington courts will openly, fairly, efficiently and effectively administer justice in all criminal and civil cases, consistent with constitutional mandates and the judiciary's duty to maintain the highest level of public trust and confidence in the courts.*

State Law Library staff have continued to provide exceptional legal services throughout economic downturn, with no salary adjustment to compensate for increased costs of living.

**Commitment to Effective Court Management.** *Washington courts will employ and maintain systems and practices that enhance effective court management.*

To provide salaries commensurate with work quality currently exhibited, present salaries of State Law Library staff should be adjusted.

**Appropriate Staffing and Support.** *Washington courts will be appropriately staffed and effectively managed, and court personnel, court managers and court systems will be effectively supported.*

In order for the State Law Library to continue providing optimal services for the courts and public, staff salary levels should be increased.

## **Measure Detail**

### **Impact on clients and service**

None

### **Impact on other state services**

None

### **Relationship to Capital Budget**

None

### **Required changes to existing Court Rule, Court Order, RCW, WAC, contract, or plan**

None

### **Alternatives explored**

Implementation of this increase has been delayed due to lack of funding.

### **Distinction between one-time and ongoing costs and budget impacts in future biennia**

This request is ongoing in nature.

**Effects of non-funding**

Recruitment and retention will continue to be challenging as other agencies continue to provide both ordinary salary increments as well as the additional increment (step M).

**Expenditure calculations and assumptions and FTE assumptions**

<b>Object Detail</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>Total</b>
Staff Costs	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,000
Non-Staff Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,000</b>